

Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-Two Years of Showing God's Unconditional, Healing Love to Teen Age Girls

Heart Ministries, Inc., 201 S. Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020; Phone 620.463.6112; www.victoryvillagechristianacademy.org
Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director; Bill and Carole Cowell, Editors & Administrators

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From our Director, Kelli Schwarz-Rump

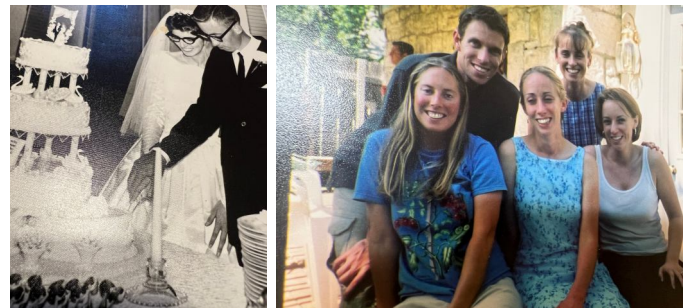
July is here! The campus is pretty quiet with everyone gone for summer break. The dorm renovation has added some noise but it's definitely not the buzzing of a dorm full of girls. The renovation is going smoothly and piece by piece is getting finished up. In another month the Victory Village campus will have girls moving in and getting settled in for the school year. Please join me in praying for all of the students that will be coming this year. Please also pray for the VV staff; that this summer break is a time of rest and rejuvenation for each of them. Lastly, I ask prayer for more staff. Victory Village needs a part time cook and part time dorm staff. If you know of a Christian woman looking to serve in this ministry please have them contact me at Kelli.vvca@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued love, prayers and support.

Editor's Note: Kelli wrote the above while on a trip with her husband **Casey**, and their children, **Madison**, **Kolten**, **Raylin** and **Treygan**. We asked permission to include a few pictures of their beautiful and busy family, all active in Church, School and showing livestock. We continue to thank God for Kelli's good work as Director here at VVCA.

Visit The Village....with Bill and Carole Celebrating 60 Years!



First Covenant Church, Salina, KS, July 7, 1963 – 200 Guests.



Growing up in small Kansas communities, 60 miles apart, we both had a love for God and for sharing His love. Our lonely hearts met in the big city of Chicago, followed by love and visions of ministry together. Walking down the streets of the windy city day and night, there were scenes of broken hearts and lives. We saw young and old who needed Jesus. Back in Kansas, and walking a country road together by the Cowell farm in Clay County, our conversation was about the possibility of a "camp" for youth someday, somewhere, with lots of details to be revealed later. God gave us five wonderful children, **Mary Beth**, **Becky**, **Grace**, **Danny**, and **Sarah**, all having a part in the formation of Heart Ministries. Those five, with spouses, 20 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren join in celebrating together this month what God has done. After two full time pastorates, 52 years of Heart Ministries, at ages 84 and 80, and married for 60 years, we still want to live out the rest of our lives in ministry. We come to the office daily, edit this Newsletter, and when school starts, conducting daily Chapel times along with Sunday worship services. We thank God for competent leadership with **Kelli** as Director, and **Bob Friesen** as Board Chairman, giving assurance that the ministry will continue beyond our lifetimes. (Continued on page two)



VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued) One of our generous supporters years ago told her daughter, who is also a supporter, not to give to any organization that does not have a plan for continuance. Thanks to God, Heart Ministries and Victory Village Christian Academy have such a plan, and after God calls us to Heaven, the ministry will continue.

We will soon be welcoming a Dorm full of students, many of them new. Summer remodeling and upgrading of the Dorm will be beautiful and complete. Excitement is in the air for all God will do in hearts and lives this coming school year. Thank you so much for partnering with us in prayer and financial support. These are perilous days for youth with so many strange winds blowing to knock them off course in their lives. The Bible can be their guide and Jesus can be their hope and salvation, and it is a joy and privilege for us and our staff to introduce them to both. May God be praised!

We are blessed to have **Dr. Jessica Kerzner** as our Therapist here at VVCA. One Sunday during Summer break we visited the **New Spring Church** in Wichita, where she and her family are active members. New Spring has blessed us by providing new Bibles for our Chapel.



Jessica and her husband **David**, with their three children, took us out to Saltgrass Steak House for a delightful dinner following the service.



We also met other special friends at NewSpring. **Jerry Winkley** and wife **Lisa**, pictured here along with Jessica, have a long history with VVCA. In one of our early meetings in Marion County, and in the building that we had hoped to turn into a home for girls, Jerry, about age 12 at the time, and his mother **Annie Jean Winkley**, were in attendance. That night, Jerry accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, and he and Lisa have been faithful supporters of this ministry for many years. We were also blessed to see another friend at NewSpring—**Connie Heidebrecht**, founder of **Fresh Hope** at **His Helping Hands**, a ministry showing God's love and grace to abused

women. **Connie** also had relatives at **Emmanuel Baptist Church** in Marion when we pastored there.



It has been a great garden year! Here are some good workers, picking English peas. Left to right are, **Alyssa**, Staff member **Karen Chatterton**, **Carolina**, **Mystery**, **Essi**, and Staff member **Kristi Colvin**. Peas are a lot of work, as they must be picked, shelled and preserved, but they are so good!



Again this year, we are having a bountiful crop of potatoes! The loads of manure **Ed Koehn** of Halstead brings us each year to fertilize the garden are really boosting our yields.



Soon it will be corn, and it looks like there will again be a bountiful harvest. Peas, onions, potatoes, corn and tomatoes were all planted by Bill's Horticulture Class in the Spring.



Three of the girls spent the month of June at the **Kansas Bible Camp**, and we made a few visits out there to see them. Here, sitting with **Carole**, are **Lola**, **Mystery** and **Essi**. One of our teachers, **Larissa Hawkinson** and husband **Nathaniel** are Staff Directors. We are so thankful for KBC.



The renovation project at the Dorm has been coming along nicely. Our Case Manager, **Kristi Colvin**, her husband **Curtis Colvin**, and brother **Jeromie Rose** did a beautiful and professional job on the kitchen countertops. The flooring we ordered from **Neufelds** in Buhler will be installed soon.

JULY IS SPECIAL! By Carole

July is a very special month in our house, with Bill's birthday on the 6th, and our 60th anniversary on the 7th. We are so thankful that they were finally able to get Bill breathing as a newborn baby! He followed God's call to the ministry, graduating from K-State and from the Seminary at Wheaton College. Bill was diligently searching and praying for a wife, and God was working it all out by having him meet me when I was a student at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. He was smitten right away, but I was cautious! Wheaton boys were said to be rich, especially if they had a car! Bill was not rich, but he did have a car, and he kept on trying to win my heart! After several dates to Moody Church, long walks in Chicago, and lots of prayer, he finally won my heart and we were engaged. We planned to get married in two years, but quickly moved it up to one year! We planned for a beautiful wedding in July, and because of many family members help, it was done quite economically – My mother made my wedding dress, Grandma Phillips brought flowers from her garden, Bill's mother made the wedding cake, and the total cost was around \$200! Weddings don't need to be expensive. July 7 was a beautiful day, for a beautiful wedding in my Covenant Church in Salina, and around 200 people were there to celebrate with us. God has blessed us abundantly with family, friends and Heart Ministries!

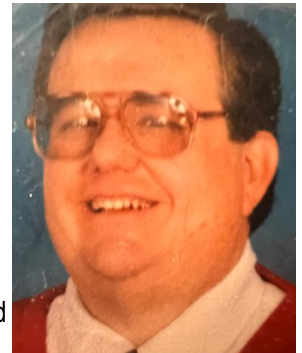


The picturesque **VVCA campus** shows the natural beauty God has bestowed on this gently rolling landscape which was once an overgrazed cow pasture. **Scott Hilburn** does a great job of taking care of it and making it look beautiful.



Orchards are not real popular in this area anymore, but it just seemed right to start one at Victory Village. Trees are small, but starting to bear fruit. Here are peaches from one tree, and Bill's Peach is holding them!

Longtime friend, former Board member and Business Manager at VVCA, **Way Eikleberry**, has graduated to Heaven. Way served the Lord for a number of years at Victory Village, endearing himself to both Staff and Students. Way and Carole graduated from Salina High School 1962. May God bless his wife **Becky**, also a former Board member, their children and family.



Our Chapel Organist for several years, **Susan Snyder** and husband **Jim**, moved to Lehigh a year ago, and Susan passed away recently. We are in need of an organist for our Sunday morning worship services, starting with the new school year. Chapel is an important part of Victory Village life, as we gather to sing "Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19) on Sundays, and more singing and teaching Monday through Fridays, but we only need an organist for Sunday. Please tell us if you or someone you know is interested.

NEEDS LIST - Paper towels - Foil - Parchment paper - 15 gallon trash bags - Dish soap - Borax - Part time Cook for VV Dorm (Mondays and Wednesdays), Part time Dorm Staff (weekends)

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July, 2023



HEART MINISTRIES, INC.
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Burrton, KS 67020

(Address Service Requested)

Our 53rd Year of Changing Lives for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom; Jesus said "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Our Mission is to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Inspired by His Gospel, we seek to make God's amazing love and compassion real to teenage girls, serving them without charge to their families by providing a clean and safe home, a good Christian and State certified education, nutritious meals, training in life skills, outdoor and indoor activities and sports, opportunities to be involved in the ministry of helping others, and an introduction to Jesus, who will love them forever. We affirm the worth of all, without prejudice, partiality or intimidation. **Victory Village Christian Academy** is located at 201 S Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020, and is licensed by the State of Kansas, with State certified teachers and curriculum. Credits are transferable, high school diplomas are earned and recognized for entrance to colleges. **Rev. Bill and Carole Cowell, Founders and Administrators; Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director and Principal; Katy Nininger, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Marla Johnson, Jerry Nininger, Larissa Hawkinson, Teachers; Barbara Hedges, Office Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, Wilma Engle, Accountant; Jessica Kerzner, Therapist; Kristi Colvin, Case Manager; Heather Smith, Dormitory Director; Jenna Weimer, Robin Traffas, Shannon Fitzgerald, Emily Moore, Amanda Herd, Janice Janzen, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Cayleena Pilgreen, Elise Gaeddert, Grace Skiles, Lauren Holmes, Bri Neal, Becky Valdois, Dormitory Staff; Emma Foster, Cook; Scott Hilburn, Maintenance, Board of Directors: Bob Friesen, Chairman, Rev. Bill and Carole Cowell, Becky Goering, Larry Chapman, Gordon Goering, Lyndal Penner, Rev. John Williams, Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Dr. Jessica Kerzner.**



**Jesus, Saviour, Pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rocks and treacherous shoal;
Chart and Compass come from Thee,
Jesus, Saviour, Pilot me.**

CHRIST PILOT ME is the very appropriate inscription Board member **Gordon Goering** chose when building the Chapel Fountain in memory of his wife Barbara. As a young boy, my mother listened faithfully to *A Bit of Cheer and Sunshine*, with Rev. Nye J. Langmade over KSAL radio in Salina. His theme song was *Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me*. Traveling Kansas Highway 96 between Ness City and Great Bend, one is sure to see the words, **Christ Pilot Me** displayed on a hill near Bazine, with limestone rocks placed there by 40 Ness County students in 1940). They are words we should all pray in these days of so much moral and spiritual confusion. Our youth desperately need Divine guidance in order to navigate their way through the ridiculous ideas many are throwing at them today. They need a strong moral compass to point them in the right direction, and the Bible is that compass. Our teachers and leaders are doing their best to show them the way, hoping and praying they will make right choices and someday be able to say in the words of Robert Frost,

**Two roads diverged in a wood,
And I -- I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.**

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support, especially in the summer time when giving sometimes drops. We took on extra this summer with the remodeling project, but it needed to be done, and the best time was when the Dorm was empty. May God bless you all.

The Newsletter is printed by Taylor Printing, Pratt, Kansas



The Christ Pilot Me Hill on Highway 96 in Ness County